

Message Text

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47/46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

SAM-01 PRS-01 A-01 OPR-02 EURE-00 /039 W

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O 011310Z MAR 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7662

UNCLAS DUBLIN 390

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (COSGRAVE, LIAM) US EI

SUBJ: IRISH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S. -

REMARKS AT WELCOMING CEREMONY

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED DRAFT OF A WELCOMING STATEMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S USE IN PREPARING A TEXT FOR THE PRESIDENT.

2. MR. PRIME MINISTER: IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME PERSONALLY - AS WELL AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES - TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR COUNTRY. MRS. FORD JOINS ME WITH GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE IN GREETING MRS. COSGRAVE AND YOURSELF HERE TODAY. (IF IT IS RAINING, A REMARK ABOUT HAVING ORGANIZED THE WEATHER TO MAKE THEM FEEL AT HOME WOULD NOT BE OUT OF ORDER).

3. YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON, MR. PRIME MINISTER, IS A SYMBOL OF THE DIMENSIONS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP - THE INTERTWINING SPECIAL AND UNIQUE BONDS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES THAT GO BACK TO OUR WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE, AND BEYOND.

4. THE EARLY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN MARKED BY MANY MEMORABLE EVENTS. THE FIRST LARGE PARTY OF IRISH SETTLERS ARRIVED IN NEWPORT NEWS IN 1621, LED BY A WEALTHY MERCHANT FROM CORK, DANIEL GOOKIN. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE NAME OF THIS HISTORIC CITY IN VIRGINIA WAS TAKEN FROM
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GOOKIN'S BIRTHPLACE, PORT NEWCE OR NEWCESTOWN IN COUNTY

CORK. SINCE THAT EARLY BEGINNING, NO COUNTRY CONTRIBUTED MORE TO THE BUILDING OF AMERICA THAN THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF IRELAND. IN OUR WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE - AMONG THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE - IN THE BUILDING OF OUR NATION OVER THE LAST TWO CENTURIES, IRISH MEN AND WOMEN HAVE MADE, AND CONTINUE TO MAKE, A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR WAY OF LIFE - TO LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY.

5. BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN A ONE-WAY FLOW ACROSS THE OCEAN THAT SEPARATES US. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, THE AMBASSADOR OF OUR REVOLUTION, WAS RECEIVED BY THE IRISH PARLIAMENT IN 1772. FRANKLIN REPORTED THAT ITS MEMBERS WERE "DISPOSED TO BE FRIENDS OF AMERICA." FRANKLIN OPINED THAT "BY JOINING OUR INTEREST WITH THEIRS... A MORE EQUITABLE TREATMENT...MIGHT BE OBTAINED FOR BOTH NATIONS."

6. FROM THAT TIME TO THE EVENTS EARLIER THIS CENTURY THAT BROUGHT ABOUT A FREE AND INDEPENDENT IRELAND, THE GOOD WISHES AND THE HELP OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE, WE BELIEVE, CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THAT GOAL.

7. IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THESE COMMON GOALS OF FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION, IRELAND HAS A UNIQUE ROLE TO PLAY. IRELAND IS PART OF EUROPE, BY CHOICE AS WELL AS BY GEOGRAPHY. BUT IRELAND IS PART OF THE NEWER AS WELL AS THE OLDER. WINNING ITS STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE EARLY IN THIS CENTURY, IRELAND HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS THAT HAVE ONLY RECENTLY EXPERIENCED THIS ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENT NATIONHOOD.

8. THE TIES WITH THE PAST, THE CULTURAL INFLUENCES AND MUTUALLY-ACCLAIMED COOPERATIVE RELATIONS OF THE PRESENT, AND THE ROLE WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE - ALL THESE MAKE OUR MEETING HERE TODAY AN IMPORTANT OCCASION.

9. I MENTIONED EARLIER THE INTERTWINING SPECIAL AND UNIQUE BONDS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT WE SHOULD MEET HERE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY - A DAY IMPORTANT TO OUR PEOPLE AS IT IS TO YOURS - DURING THE YEAR
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OF OUR BICENTENNIAL - A YEAR IMPORTANT TO YOUR PEOPLE AS IT IS TO OURS.

10. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT YOUR STAY IN THE UNITED STATES WILL BE AS PLEASANT AS IT IS IMPORTANT. TO YOU, MR. PRIME MINISTER, AND TO MRS. COSGRAVE, CEAD MILLE FAILTE.
(PHONETICALLY KAID MEELA FALCHA). CURLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DUBLIN00390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0874
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603108/aaaadrus.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRISH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S. - REMARKS AT WELCOMING CEREMONY
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, US, EI, (COSGRAVE, LIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006